

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 02493 051459Z

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SUBJ: EGG IMPORT QUOTAS ANNOUNCED

1. FOLLOWING ARTICLE ON EGG IMPORT QUOTAS AND INCREASE
IN EGG PRICES APPEARED IN JULY 5 EDITION OF TORONTO GLOBE
AND MAIL UNDER HEADLINE "EGG IMPORT QUOTAS PLACED BY
OTTAWA; PRICES UP 6 CENTS":

QUOTE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS IMPOSED IMPORT QUOTAS ON
EGGS MOVING INTO CANADA.

FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT, THE ONTARIO EGG PRODUCERS MARKETING
BOARD INCREASED ITS PRICE ON THE FOUR TOP GRADES OF EGGS
BY 6 CENTS A DOZEN.

THE FARM PRICE FOR A LARGE WILL NOW BE 59 CENTS A
DOZEN, A MEDIUM 49 CENTS AND 1 SMALL 37 CENTS.

THE QUOTAS ANNOUNCED BY AGRICULTURE MINISTER EUGENE
WHELAN, WERE EXPECTED AFTER ALBERTA DECIDED ON THURSDAY TO
SIGN A REVISED AGREEMENT COVERING THE OPERATIONS OF THE CANADIAN
EGG MARKETING AGENCY.

MR. WHELAN PROMISED IN EARLY JUNE THAT IMPORT CONTROLS WOULD
BE IMPOSED ONCE HE WAS SATISFIED THAT THE CANADIAN EGG
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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 02493 051459Z

MARKETING AGENCY HAD DEMONSTRATED A COMMITMENT TO CURTAIL

CANADIAN PRODUCTION.

HE HAD DEMANDED THAT ALL PROVINCES AND PROVINCIAL EGG BOARDS SIGN THE REVISED AGREEMENT AND ALBERTA WAS THE LAST HOLDOUT. IT DECIDED TO SIGN AFTER MR. WHELAN APPLIED EXTRAORDINARY PRESSURE, INCLUDING A THREAT TO ALLOW IMPORTS INTO IT BUT NOT OTHER PROVINCES AND A WITHDRAWAL OF THE RIGHT OF ITS EGG BOARD TO IMPOSE LEVIES.

NONE OF THIS WAS MENTIONED IN MR. WHELAN'S STATEMENT. THE MINISTER REFERRED TO THE REVISED CEMA AGREEMENT AND SAID THE GOVERNMENT NOW IS IN A POSITION TO IMPOSE IMPORT CONTROLS.

"THESE REGULATED IMPORTS IN COMBINATION WITH CANADIAN PRODUCTION WILL BE ADEQUATE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF CANADIAN CONSUMERS.

"WHILE PRICES WILL RISE IN CENTRAL CANADA AT THE OUTSET BECAUSE OF THE EXTREMELY LOW PRICES NOW PREVAILING IN RELATION TO PRODUCTION COSTS, THEY WILL QUICKLY STABILIZE THROUGHOUT CANADA.

"IF PRICES ADVANCE BEYOND A REASONABLE LEVEL, IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO OPEN THE DOOR TO INCREASED SUPPLIES FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY TO ENSURE A STABLE, REASONABLE PRICE IN CANADA", MR. WHELAN SAID.

HOWEVER, AT NO POINT DOES THE STATEMENT SAY WHAT A REASONABLE PRICE IS OR HOW IT WOULD BE DETERMINED.

THE MINISTER'S STATEMENT INDICATED THAT THE FEDERAL MARKETING AGENCY WILL HAVE CENTRALIZED CONTROL OF THE PRODUCER PRICES IN THE MAJOR EGG PRODUCTION AREAS OF THE COUNTRY.

"THIS WILL EVEN OUT PRODUCER PRICES BETWEEN AREAS AND LEVEL OUT CONSUMER PRICES ACROSS CANADA."

MR. WHELAN ALSO NOTED THAT AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 OTTAWA 02493 051459Z

APPOINTED TO DIRECT THE AGENCY'S POLICIES. IT WILL CONSIST OF THREE PERSONS - TWO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT APPOINTEES, INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN, AND A VICE-CHAIRMAN APPOINTED BY THE EGG PRODUCERS. THE THREE HAVE YET TO BE NAMED.

THE QUOTAS STARTED AT MIDNIGHT LAST NIGHT, AND SHELL EGGS, EGG POWDER AND FROZEN EGG MELANGE IMPORTS WILL

BE REGULATED.

THE SHELL EGG QUOTA FOR 1975 IS 54,000 CASES OF 30-DOZEN EGGS, WITH 36,000 BEING ALLOWED IN DURING THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR. UNQUOTE PORTER

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